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Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SIG-02 /006 R

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DRAFTED BY: USOAS:SNWILSON
APPROVED BY: USOAS:SNWILSON
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R 211841Z JUN 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO ALL AMERICAN REPUBLIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS
USCINCSO

UNCLAS STATE 143822

FOLLOWING TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE FROM USDEL GRENADA JUNE 21:

QUOTEUNCLAS GRENADA 0063

USOAS DEL 47

DEPT PASS AMREPS

FROM USDEL OASGA

EO 11652: NA
TAGS: PORG OAS
SUBJ: POLITICAL RALLY JUNE 19

1. GRENADA'S OPPOSITION LEADER MAURICE BISHOP YESTERDAY CALLED A POLITICAL RALLY TO PROTEST HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN GRENADA. THE RALLY ORGANIZERS DID NOT HAVE A PERMIT TO USE A LOUD-SPEAKER AND THE POLICE USED THAT AS AN EXCUSE TO BREAK IT UP.

2. THE CROWD THEN MARCHED THROUGH THE TOWN CHANTING "HUMAN RIGHTS, HUMAN RIGHTS". TO USDEL OBSERVERS WHO HAPPENED TO BE AT A POINT DEMONSTRATORS PASSED, THE MOOD SEEMED EMOTIONAL
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BUT NOT VIOLENT. SHORTLY AFTER CROWD BEGAN TO MARCH, POLICE FIRED SHOTS, AND THE PEOPLE QUICKLY DISPERSED. POLICE CONFISCATED FILM FROM U.S. PHOTOGRAPHERS REPRESENTING AP AND UPI, BUT IT WAS RETURNED TODAY BY PM GAIRY AT PRESS CONFERENCE.

3. AT NINETY-MINUTE PRESS CONFERENCE, GAIRY GAVE HIS

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VERSION OF YESTERDAY'S EVENTS. HE RECOUNTED HIS 26-YEAR POLITICAL CAREER, EMPHASIZING THAT HE HAD BROUGHT PARTY POLITICS TO GRENADA AND THAT HIS PARTY AHD NEVER LOST AN ELECTION. HE ALSO ASCRIBED TO HIMSELF THE DIVINE RIGHT TO RULE THE COUNTRY.

4. GAIRY SAID THAT DISTORTED PRESS REPORTING ABOUT GRENADA WAS LARGELY INSTIGATED BY THE OPPOSITION AND THEIR FRIENDS IN NEIGHBORING CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES. THE OPPOSITION LEADERS WERE TRAITORS WHO HAD VISITED ALL THE OTHER CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES TRYING TO DRUM UP SUPPORT FOR A BOYCOTT OF GRENADA, BUT THE ONLY FAVORABLE RESPONSE WAS FROM CHEDDI JAGAN IN GUYANA. THEY HAD OPPOSED EVERYTHING HE HAD DONE TO BENEFIT GRENADA, SUCH AS INVITING THE OAS TO MEET HERE, BUT THEY HAD FAILED. MANY OTHER COUNTRIES HAD TRIED TO GET THE OASGA BUT GRENADA, THE SMALLEST AND POOREST MEMBER STATE, HAD SUCCEEDED. HE HAD BEEN TOLD BY THE SECRETARIAT STAFF THAT THIS PROBABLY WAS THE BEST GA EVER.

5. GAIRY SAID OPPOSITION NEW JEWEL MOVEMENT WAS BEHIND THE DEMONSTRATION AND THAT THEIR PHILOSOPHY WAS SIMILAR TO COMMUNISM. THEY WANTED TO ABOLISH THE PARLIAMENTARY SYSTEM AND ESTABLISH PEOPLE'S COURTS. THEY DID NOT WANT ELECTIONS BY BALLOT BUT "BY BULLET." HE SAID THE NEW JEWEL MOVEMENT LEADERS HAD JUST RETURNED FROM A TRIP TO CUBA, WHERE THEY RECEIVED WEAPONS TRAINING. IN HIS VIEW, UNCLASSIFIED

THE NEW JEWEL MOVEMENT HAD INFLUENCED THE MINDS OF YOUNG PEOPLE, LARGELY YOUNG COLORED PROFESSIONALS WHO WERE TRYING TO BE WHITE, AND HAD INCITED DISRESPECT FOR THE LAW. HE CHARGED THE OPPOSITION WITH BEING RACISTS WHO HAD SET A DATE FOR ALL WHITES TO BE EXTERMINATED, BUT HE SAID THEY DID NOT HAVE THE SUPPORT OF THE COMMON MAN WHO BACKED GAIRY BECAUSE OF HIS WORK TO RAISE WAGES AND IMPROVE LIVING CONDITIONS.

6. GAIRY SAID HIS OWN PHILOSOPHY WAS BASED ON DIVINE INSPIRATION, AND HIS RELATION TO THE DIVINE WAS THE SECRET OF HIS STRENGTH. "GOD HAS A DESIGN FOR ME AND NO ONE CAN STOP ME." MANY ATTEMPTS HAD BEEN MADE ON HIS LIFE BUT "I NOW WALK SIX FEET OVER MY ASSAILANTS."

7. GAIRY SAID HE HAD A GOOD CONVERSATION WITH THE US SECRETARY OF STATE, WHO HAD INVITED HIM TO VISIT WASHINGTON. HE SAID "WE HAVE FOUND A NEW FRIEND IN SECRETARY OF STATE VANCE."

8. WHEN ASKED WHY THE POLICE HAD SHOT INTO THE CROWD, HE STRESSED POLICE HAD SHOT IN THE AIR TO DISPERSE THE CROWD

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AND HAD NOT SHOT AT THE PEOPLE. HE SAID THAT CROWDS TEND
TO BECOME INTOXICATED--"ESPECIALLY CROWDS OF PEOPLE OF
AFRICAN DESCENT, WHO ARE PARTICULARLY HOT--BLOODED."

9. ASKED ABOUT FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY IN GRENADA, GAIRY
SAID THERE WAS COMPLETE FREEDOM OF ALL TYPES, BUT NO ONE
COULD USE A LOUDSPEAKER OR CONDUCT A MARCH WITHOUT A PERMIT.
TO DO SO OTHERWISE WAS A VIOLATION OF LAW, HE SAID, AND
HE WOULD RESIGN RATHER THAN PERMIT DISRESPECT FOR THE LAW.
HE HIMSELF HAD BEEN ARRESTED BY THE BRITISH MANY YEARS
AGO FOR USING A LOUDSPEAKER WITHOUT A PERMIT AND HAD BEEN
CONVICTED AND PUNISHED.

10. ASKED WHY THE OPPOSITION WAS DENIED THELOUDSPEAKER
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PERMIT FOR ITS RALLY, HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT FELT IT
INAPPROPRIATE TO WASH DIRTY LINEN IN PUBLIC DURING THE OAS
CONFERENCE AND THAT ANYWAY, THE POLICE DID NOT HAVE TO GIVE
ANY REASONS FOR DENYING PERMITS.

11. IN RESPONSE TO ANOTHER QUESTION, HE CHARGED THAT THERE
MAY HAVE BEEN A CONSPIRACY BETWEEN CORRESPONDENTS HERE FOR
THE OASGA AND "OUTSIDE SOURCES". HE CHARGED THAT THE
INCIDENT AT THE MARKET HAD BEEN STAGE-MANAGED AND
CORRESPONDENTS WERE INVITED TO ATTEND IN THE EXPECTATION
THAT THERE WOULD BE TROUBLE. MCGEE UNQUOTE VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, HUMAN RIGHTS, OPPOSITION PARTIES, PARTY LEADERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: Released in Full
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: 200505060
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 07-Jun-2007 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: Released in Full by DAVID COX on 07-JUN-07 ;
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE143822
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: USOAS:SNWILSON
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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Review Event:
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Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2080377
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POLITICAL RALLY JUNE 19
TAGS: PORG, PINS, SHUM, GJ, OAS, (BISHOP, MAURICE)
To: ALL POSTS USCINCSO
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/6e406479-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009